

CDFW extends land closures through Sept. 21

September 17, 2020



The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has extended closures on 49 properties (bit.ly/3c3Npqc) that lie within or immediately adjacent to U.S. Forest Service (USFS) boundaries through Monday, Sept. 21. The closures were put into place on Sept. 12 due to unprecedented and historic fire conditions.

All closures are CDFW wildlife areas or ecological reserves, and they cover many parts of the state. They were closed following the USFS announcement of the temporary closure of all national forests in California (www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/home).

Fire danger is extreme in California currently. Hunters and outdoor enthusiasts are strongly encouraged to check for closures before leaving on any recreational trip. Click on the following links to follow up-to-date closures:

- [CDFW Land Closure List](#)
- [Map of Closed Ecological Reserves](#)

- Map of Closed Wildlife Areas
- USFS Lands
- Bureau of Land Management Lands

CDFW acknowledges that hunting opportunities will be impacted. Tag return and preference point eligibility requirements and additional information may be found on CDFW's website at bit.ly/2ZLdoOl.

All forests all Forests in the Pacific Southwest Region are currently closed to hunting due to the severe fire situation. These closures were put in place to protect the public and our employees.

Forest Service closure orders include an exemption for "persons with a Forest Service non-special-use written authorization to conduct non-recreational activities, such as harvesting timber or forest products, or grazing livestock."

However, the exemption does not apply to hunting. Hunting is considered and managed as a recreational public use of Forests. All Forests are currently closed to protect the public and our employees due to the unprecedented fire season and the additional risks associated with extreme fire weather and fast-moving fire conditions throughout the state.

If you have a hunting license and tag, you will still be able to use it. Opportunities to hunt and utilize tags may alternatively be available on non-Forest Service lands. Additionally, CDFW is assessing the fire situation and closure decision on a daily basis in order to make a determination to retain the Forest closures or remove them. It is possible, depending on fire behavior and weather, the closures may be lifted before hunting season concludes.

For additional FAQs regarding the closure of national forests in California, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/home/?cid=FSEPRD804563>.